Miniratna, Ratna and Navratna status

995. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Ministry can on its own confer Miniratna, Ratna or Navratna status to any PSU under its control;

(b) if not, whether such status of Miniratna or Ratna or Navratna can be given to private companies by nodal Ministries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Administrative Ministry/Department concerned with a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) is empowered to grant Miniratna status to a CPSE under its control after satisfying that the CPSE fulfills the criteria laid down for grant of such status. The Navratna status is granted to CPSEs by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) on the basis of recommendations of Apex Committee. There is no scheme of granting 'Ratna' status to CPSEs.

(b) and (c) The Navratna and Miniratna status is granted to CPSEs. DPE is nodal department for CPSEs, and therefore it does not grant such status to private companies.

Flouting of safety norms by ONGC

996. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been seized of the fact that ships designed to perform low-risk tasks of usual nature *e.g.*, transportation of cargo, water, fuel, have been engaged by ONGC in carrying out high risk operations *e.g.*, hydro-testing, pegging etc., in Bombay High south and north;

(b) if so, whether such mis-deployment of the ships is fraught with danger to the lives of personnel and risk to the platforms, in particular;

(c) whether the management of ONGC has been found to be flouting the basic safety norms even in the risk-prone operation zones; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The activities carried out by supply vessels owned/charter hired by ONGC for meeting its logistics/towing requirements etc. are within the designed capacities of the vessels as per required norms. ONGC takes up operations like hydro testing & pegging of pipelines in Mumbai offshore field by deploying the duly approved marine spread conforming to various technical requirements through its turnkey contractor.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.